

REMARKS

Claims 19-31 remain in the application. Claims 19 and 25 are in independent form.

Claims 1-18, 32, 33, 35 and 36 have been withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claim 34 was cancelled in a prior Amendment.

The applicant hereby affirms its election to prosecute the invention of Group II, Claims 19-31. Claims 1-18 and 32-36 have been withdrawn from further consideration, with Applicant reserving its right to pursue these Claims in a divisional application. No amendment of inventorship is required in view of Applicant's cancellation of Claims to a non-elected invention.

As now distinctly recited in the amended independent Claims, a mechanical interlock to hold the firing tip in place by bulging a central portion (51, 151) inside of the through hole (20, 120). This feature, in combination with the other recited elements in Claims 19 and 25, is not anticipated or obviated by the prior art.

The drawings are objected to because of the missing reference sign "44" mentioned in Paragraph [0013] on page 4. Reference number 44 was intended to depict the tapered surface of the counterbore 42. Upon re-consideration, the Applicant deems use of the reference number 44 unnecessary, since its lead line would point to the same surface identified by reference number 42 in Figures 2A and 2B. In this sense, it might even be confusing to introduce reference number 44 into Figures 2A and 2B.

Accordingly, it has been determined expedient to delete reference to numeral "44" in Paragraph [0013] rather than to amend the drawings. Appropriate correction is submitted herewith in the form of a replacement Paragraph [0013] deleting the one and only occurrence of reference number 44. It is respectfully submitted that the drawing objection is thus overcome.

Claim 32 is objected to because the term "prior" was inadvertently omitted. The Applicant is thankful for the identification of this omission, and has made an appropriate correction to Claim 31 in the currently submitted amendments. It is respectfully submitted that this objection to Claim 31 has been overcome.

Claims 21-23 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, 2nd para., as being indefinite because the limitation "the material" in Claim 21 is without antecedent support. The term "material" was a typographical error which should read "metal wire". Appropriate correction has been made in the current amendment. The term "metal wire" finds antecedent support in the main Claim 19, and is further supported as being the weld interface with the firing tip as described in the specification (e.g., Paragraph 0018). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of Claims 21-23 under 35 USC 112, 2nd para., has been overcome.

Claims 19-31 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Mohle '210. Mohle discloses a ground electrode 6 having a precious metal firing tip 5 contained in a through hole 4. Unlike the claimed invention, the Mohle firing tip 5 is not compressed in the direction of its longitudinal axis. Rather, the ground electrode 6 is compressed into the firing tip 5 in a direction perpendicular to its longitudinal axis. As a result, Mohle fails to teach a bulging portion formed inside the through hole. Accordingly, and in view of the amendments herein presented, the rejection under 35 USC 102(b) is believed overcome. Likewise, none of the prior art made of record discloses the novel combination of features recited in the amended claims. It is respectfully submitted that the Claims, as currently presented, define novel and non-obvious subject matter and are presented in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

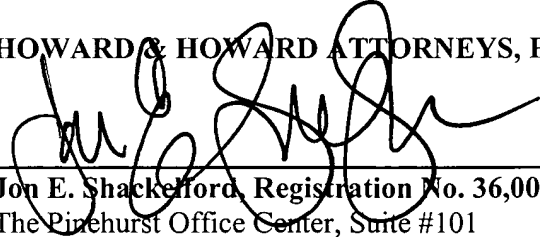
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It is believed that this application now is in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action is requested.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 08-2789.

Respectfully submitted,

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